THE TRANSPLANTATION OF ENDOCRINE GLANDS BY INJECTION

PROF. HERMANN KUTTNER (*Bruns' Beitr. z. klin. Chir.*, cxlv) mentions the fact that so far the transplantation of endocrine glands has not produced permanent results, that the implanted organs usually degenerate and finally undergo necrosis and absorption, and that, accordingly, the effects are transitory and must be designated as pharmacologic. He denies that lasting endocrine influences are experienced.

In Kűttner's opinion, progress in this field can come only when it is possible to insure a more lasting and intensive endocrine influence than can be procured by a single transplantation. He refers to a suggestion that he had made as long ago as 1912, to inject fresh tissue emulsion. Such an injection has the advantage that it can be repeated as soon as the effect of the former treatment has diminished, and it amounts to only a slight operation that can be done under local anesthesia.

The author suggests a special syringe with wide cannula for the purpose. He has seen very satisfactory results, not only in animal experiments but also in cretins, and has more recently taken up this work again which had been interrupted by the war.

The method used by Kűttner is the one that was originally employed by Brown-Séquard and which has been in constant use by Dr. L. L. Stanley, of San Quentin, California. Stanley obtains his testicular emulsion by slitting the testicles in their long axis under aseptic precautions, scraping off the emulsion-like material with a sharp knife; this is then placed in sterile glass tubes and sealed. Before using, it is put into strong sterile syringes supplied with sharp-pointed, wide-calibered needles, and Stanley makes the injections into the abdominal region on either side of the umbilicus. They may be made in the gluteus, in the thigh, or in any bulky muscle.

It is interesting to find that Stanley's method is employed elsewhere; that, in fact, it had been suggested as early as 1912. The principal advantages claimed by Professor Kűttner are self-evident, namely, that the technic is simple and that the operation can be repeated readily, which seem to us to be of special importance for the further study of this problem.